

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of creating partitions in a removable device capable of accepting a ~~continuous~~-removable media, said method comprising the steps of:

communicating in a computer system having an operating system and capable of connecting with a removable device in order to request an allocation of one or more drive letters to said removable device;

storing a maximum number of partitions that can be allocated in said removable media regardless of whether or not said removable media is loaded in said removable device;

reserving, within an internal work area of said operating system, areas corresponding to said maximum number of partitions,

indicating in each of said areas, after said removable media is inserted in said removable device, each of said areas including information which indicates whether a respective partition exists on said removable media; and

allocating, to said ~~continuous~~-removable media, said one or more drive letters based on a number of said areas reserved within said internal work area.

2. (Original) The method of creating partitions in a removable device according to claim 1, wherein the number of said drives is equal to a maximum number of partitions supported by said operating system.

3. (Original) The method of creating partitions in a removable device according to claim 2, wherein:

said drive letters allocated to the single unit of said removable device remain valid until being reallocated again; and

a number of drive letters derived by subtracting a number of partitions on a medium within said removable device from the number of said drive letters is recognized as being absence of any medium.

4. (Original) The method of creating partitions in a removable device according to claim 1, wherein said drive letters comprise arbitrary characters allocated by an operator.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a program recorded therein for creating a plurality of partitions in the removable device as recited in claim 1.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of using the operating system to allocate to the removable media the plurality of drive letters so that the removable media is divided into partitions corresponding to the number of drive letters.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the number of allocated plural drives is equal to a maximum number of supportable partitions for the removable device and the operating system is informed of the maximum number of supported partitions.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of creating partitions according to claim 1, wherein said drive letters are sequential with further drive letters allocated to hard disk drives.

9. (Canceled)